




PART 3: ASKING FOREGROUND QUESTIONS, PICO, AND SEARCH STRATEGIES




Foreground



- Foreground questions focus on:
 - ✓ A specific patient (or population)
 - ✓ A specific problem, condition, disease
 - ✓ One or more specific interventions (or diagnostic tools, or exposures)
 - ✓ A specific clinical outcome




PICO



P I C O helps to formulate the question

- P**atient, **P**opulation, **P**roblem
- I**ntervention, Exposure, Maneuver
- C**omparison (if relevant)
- O**utcome (clinical)



Scenario



P Your patient is a 73 year old female in good health with normal cholesterol levels and no chronic diseases. However she comes to the clinic because she is starting to notice that she is forgetting things more often. Her husband says he hasn't noticed anything different about her, but she's fearful that she might be getting Alzheimer's.

I She said she read in *Newsweek* that *Lipitor* may help with the symptoms or maybe even prevent Alzheimer's disease. She wants your advice. Would this help? You recall a few patients complaining about memory problems while on statins but don't know the data on reducing the risk of AD or associated cognitive symptoms. You tell her you'll get back to her.



C = no comparison

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PICO to search query



- P**atient/**P**opulation/**P**roblem = In a 73 yo female, mild amnesia, AD
- I**ntervention, Exposure, Maneuver = does Lipitor
- C**omparison (if relevant) = none
- O**utcome (clinical) = reduce amnesia, dementia or prevent AD?

P

Alzheimer disease senior
Alzheimer's disease elderly
dementia aged
amnesia

I

Lipitor
atorvastatin
statin
hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase inhibitors
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors

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Search query



(alzheimer OR alzheimer's OR dementia OR amnesia) AND
(lipitor OR atorvastatin OR statins OR Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA Reductase Inhibitors OR HMG CoA reductase inhibitors)

Place an "OR" between synonyms of the same concept and surround concept terms with parentheses

Place an "AND" between different concepts

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Search query



(alzheimer* OR dementia* OR amnesia*)
AND (lipitor OR atorvastatin* OR statin*
OR Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA Reductase
Inhibitors OR HMG CoA reductase
inhibitors)

- Place a wildcard (if allowed by database) to get variations of a word stem

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Finding search terms



- Check MeSH database in PubMed



- Conduct a quick and dirty search in PubMed to look for relevant articles
 - Check author language
 - In PubMed, check the MeSH terms used

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END OF PART 3:
ASKING FOREGROUND
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